



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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June 10, 1991

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J. THOMAS COCHRAN

The Honorable Sharpe James  
Mayor of Newark  
920 Broad Street  
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Mayor James:

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, congratulations on your outstanding leadership in support of urban livability. I am very pleased to let you know that your city has been awarded a First Place City Livability Award for 1991. The City Livability Awards are sponsored by Waste Management of North America, Inc., and The United States Conference of Mayors. The program is designed to recognize, honor, and encourage exemplary leadership by America's Mayors in developing programs that make cities more livable.

The ten Awards to be announced on June 17th are First-Place for large cities, which this year will go to Mayor Sharpe James of Newark; with Outstanding Achievement Awards for large cities to Mayor Cathye Ray and former Mayor George A. Venner, Sr., Mesquite; Mayor J.E. Bud Clark, Portland, Oregon; Mayor Richard Arrington, Jr., Birmingham; and Mayor John P. Rousakis, Savannah.

First-place for small cities will be awarded to Mayor Joseph A. Jenkins, Provo, Utah; Outstanding Achievements will be awarded to Mayors Robert N. Stewart, Columbus, Indiana; Robert Menendez, Union City, New Jersey; Louis D. LaPolla, Utica, New York; and John Heilman, West Hollywood, California.

An independent panel of judges, selected by the Conference of Mayors, made the decisions about the winning cities in May. This year's field was the largest ever, with 120 applications. As the judges pointed out, the competition was fierce, and many excellent programs were submitted for consideration.

The Honorable Sharpe James

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Thank you for the exceptional application that you prepared and for the exemplary leadership you have demonstrated in support of a higher quality of life in America's cities.

A very special and important person in our program is Mr. Richard V. Hought (pronounced HOWP), whom you have likely already met. He is Vice President of Urban Affairs at Waste Management of North America, Inc., Oakbrook, Illinois, and is our closest advisor and colleague from Waste Management whose support makes the City Livability Awards possible. I know that you will look forward to seeing him in San Diego.

I have taken the liberty of covering several topics in this letter, specifically, 1) the attached press release, which we would very much appreciate your holding for the media to release on Monday, June 17, when the Awards will be made; 2) information about the Awards ceremony luncheon; 3) general information about the strong competition in the program this year and the selection process; and 4) our hope that as soon as possible you will plan a "City Livability Day" for your city to celebrate the Award.

#### The Attached Press Release

We have written a draft press release on the City Livability Awards Program for you to use as you would like. Please feel free to make any changes that you wish. We have asked each city to hold all information about the winning cities until the morning of June 17.

#### The City Livability Awards Ceremony

The City Livability Awards will be announced at the Conference of Mayors' Annual Meeting in San Diego on June 17, at the Annual Luncheon, 12:30-2:00 P.M., in the California Ballroom of the Omni Hotel. We have reserved four tables at the front of the room for those Mayors who will be honored, Waste Management officials, and the Conference of Mayors staff who work on the program.

When you come into the ballroom, we would appreciate it if you would please come to the front of the room and sit at one of these four reserved tables.

Mayor Robert M. Isaac will introduce Mr. Phillip B. Rooney, President of Waste Management, Inc., who will make a brief presentation about the awards and announce the ten Awards: the First-place and four Outstanding Achievement Awards for cities above 100,000 in population, and First-Place and four Outstanding Achievement Awards for cities below 100,000.

Mayors who are recipients of the Outstanding Achievement Award will be asked to stand in place and be recognized. After a short video presentation on each city, the First-place Award Mayors will go to the podium and receive the Award from Mr. Rooney. The two First-place Mayors may wish to make a brief one-to-two minute "thank-you" speech. At the end of the presentation, Mr. Rooney and Mayor Richard Daley will present a special City Livability Award named in honor of Mayor Daley's father to Mayor Maureen O'Connor, host Mayor of the meeting.

After the luncheon, we will ask you to take a few minutes to come to an area for photographs which we have arranged. Shari Garner and I will let you know where this is. We would appreciate it if you could plan to take about twenty minutes after the luncheon has finished for the photos.

#### The 1991 Competition

The largest number of cities ever competed in this year's program with a strong array of programs that contribute to livability. The total was 117 cities, submitting a total of 120 applications. The independent panel of judges was composed of the following seven persons, representative of urban specialists across the country: Benjamin L. Brown, General Counsel, National Institute of Municipal Law Officers; L. William Chapin II, A.I.A., Vice President, American Institute of Architects; William Collins, President, Livable Cities Associates, Norwalk, CT, and former Mayor of Norwalk; Beth Cunigan, Controller, Metro Washington Airports Authority; Robert Guskind, Contributing Editor, The National Journal; Chief Guy H. Sapp, Chief of Police, Wilmington, DE, and a member of the Conference of Mayors Police Policy Board; and Roy Vanderford, Executive Director, Indianapolis Network for Employment and Training, and former President of The United States Conference of Mayors Employment and Training Council.

#### Planning for City Livability Day in Your Own City

After the Awards are announced at the Annual Meeting, the Conference of Mayors and Waste Management will work with each city to plan a "City Livability Day" for a second celebration of the Award. This will be at a time that you suggest and in whatever manner you choose. The Conference of Mayors and Waste Management will be glad to send a representative of each organization to your city at our own expense to participate in the celebration and to talk to the media about the program.

The timing and type of event is up to your discretion. In the past, for example, the Mayor of Fort Wayne in 1983 held a special dinner for all persons who had worked on his winning program and presented a special certificate to each person; Mayor

Joe Riley of Charleston held his City Livability celebration as a part of the Black Moja Festival and parade; the Mayor of New Rochelle held a special Sunday afternoon celebration at Five Islands Park and recognized each person who had made the award possible; in Albany, the Mayor hosted a luncheon at a downtown hotel and thanked everyone involved; and in Columbus, Ohio, the award was presented at the City Council meeting, followed by punch and cookies at City Hall for everyone.

Thus, you can see how varied these celebrations are. We are preparing a kit for you with suggestions about City Livability Day local celebrations for your consideration. We will send this to you shortly after the Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Again, congratulations to you, and Shari Garner and I look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

Sincerely,



Kay Randle Scrimger  
Managing Director